

## Contributions

### PENTECOSTAL FIRE

C. H. BALSBAUGH

*Dearly Beloved Sister*:—Your letter is brief yet vast and intricate in its interrogations and suggestions. We must not expect to be able to compass or fathom the mind of God. Even his simplest utterances, and plainest appointments, are far beyond our reach. We know with certainty "that God is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. And yet in these two undoubted facts are mysteries that neither man nor angel can comprehend. The blessedness of faith is that it finds perfect rest in what it cannot understand. If we must wait for perfect peace till the problems of life are solved it will never come. No, never!

Your letter gives precious evidence that the mystery so perplexing to your mind is sweetly realized as a fact in your life. The baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire is yours, even if you can never comprehend the person or office of the Paraclete, and the nature and process of the flame that is purifying you for your eternal home and heritage. There is no fire in the universe that can make us pure as God is pure apart from the Holy Ghost. I John 3:3. The elect are baptized with fire in various forms; but the effect is always the same—purification. Whether it be a wrath-kindled furnace, or a den of lions, or Herod's sword, or the Philippian dungeon, or the living coal on Isaiah's lips, or the flaming tongue on the heads of the pentecostal group, it is the symbol of the Divine presence in our behalf. Dan. 3:15-27, and 6:16-23; Acts 12:2, and 16:22-26; Isa. 6:5-8; Acts 2:2-4. Whatever the form or the occasion, it is not the baptism of Christ till it comes in conjunction with the Holy Ghost. The pentecostal word is always kindling and fanning it.

If we want the benefit of the atonement thru the ministry of the Holy Ghost we must expect fire. Christ's redemptive work was a prolonged fire baptism. Fire in the wilderness, fire in the synagogue, fire in the temple, fire in Gethsemane, fire on the cross. He was made perfect thru sufferings. Heb. 2:10, and 4:15, 16. In nothing does the Christian more rejoice than in the destruction of self and the absolute regnancy of Jesus Christ. This means the triumph of the Holy Ghost in the reproduction of the life of Christ in us. The consumption of the sense-life, and the conscious immanence and dominion of God incarnate.

Christ had no unholy desires and propensities to be burned out; but he needed to "learn obedience by the things which he suffered." Heb. 5:8. There

are thousands of professing Christians, who contend that it is impossible to get out of seventh chapter of Romans. But the home of the sanctified is in Rom. 8:33-39. A poor life indeed would Christianity give us if we knew not whether we are saved. Just as certainly as Christ was able to identify himself, so are all in whom he dwells. The fire he kindles consummates his purpose. Luke 12:49. We need trials; they are revelations of our true personality. We must not overlook the precious beatitude of James 1:12, and I Pet. 1:6-8, and 4:12, 13. Christ on the cross is the supreme manifestation of the Divine life. This must be repeated in us. Gal. 2:20. But thru it all we sing Rom. 8:18, and II Cor. 4:17. "God has his fire in Zion, his furnace in Jerusalem." Isa. 31:9. Every true believer "He purgeth that he may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. With the Christ-life necessarily goes the fire of purification. O, the blessed "afterward" in Heb. 12:11. Dovetail Luke 24:26, and Rom. 8:17. Never lose sight of Heb. 12:2, and II Cor. 3:18. This makes a perfect pentecostal baptism. Warm thanks for the stamps you inclosed. They are included in Phil. 4:6, 19.

*Union Deposit, Pa.*

### THE WAY OF THE WORLD AND A SUGGESTION FOR CHRISTIANS

J. T. KOLB

Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown but we an incorruptible. I Cor 9:25.

In these summer and autumn days we are surrounded by the ambitious contests of men, for their eager rush for pleasure, for honor, for positions, for power, for victory. The papers are full of the deeds and the sayings of politicians, athletes, pugilists, ballplayers, bicyclists, horse-racers, etc. The zeal, energy and sacrifice of these classes for their worldly idols should preach loud lessons to all who run in the heavenly race for an incorruptible crown.

What do they do, these men of the world, for the corruptible, fleeting honors they seek? I will mention a few things and leave the readers of the EVANGELIST to draw the spiritual lesson so obvious in each item. They put the whole life and soul into it. They are very much in earnest. Delight, not duty, is their watchword. They put time into it. No twenty-minute sermons or short-hour prayer meetings for them. Christians cannot spend time to attend conferences and prayer meetings, but the world finds time for all sorts of conventions, and neither are they particular to close all meetings on time. They put money into it, and they make other things bend to their hearts' desires. They don't mind snow or rain, cold or heat. All this does not keep them from ardent devotion to pleasure's interests.

They give hours and days to special training. They deny themselves of many things at such times for the sake of the supposed good they pursue. They travel long distances. They contribute of their means to send others. They go without sleep for days at times. They do not seem to mind accidents, fines, collisions, etc. They exercise themselves in body and mind until they sink exhausted to the ground. They wear buttons, badges and garments boldly. They take delight in influencing others to go with them. Oh, yes, they are all personal workers, and we often see Christian professors right along with them. They all have a testimony. They do not find it hard work to talk about these things, for their heart is in it. In short their interest is not a negative one. Their all is on the altar for this world, and they are full of the spirit of their idols.

How the cause of Christ would prosper if the mass of Christians were correspondingly engaged for God and the church. Is the reader fully awake? I have been especially stirred up of late in one direction and I venture a suggestion. I have been much interested to see the zeal with which millions of pages of campaign literature have been sent through the mails to various parties. I read one account of the ladies of a certain Order meeting in the afternoon to prepare and address such matter for the mail. Then I thought, how much good might be done if the sisters in our churches, the members of Loyal Workers, societies, etc., would meet together to select and mail religious papers and tracts to those in darkness and sin. Following out this thought and determined to at least do something in this direction but observation has taught us that in some of our churches the sisters manifest a greater zeal for church gatherings, such as ham and egg suppers, ice cream and berry socials, oyster suppers in season, to keep the church moving along. But the more of such gatherings we have in the churches the less spirituality we find there. Too much of the world and not enough of Christ in the church is destroying and driving out spirituality.

### VARIETY IN BREVITY

S. W. WILT

The "Christian religion," proper is a system untrammelled by human legislation. As such it is beautiful and attractive.

Man is like his Maker,—is a compound being, composed of body, soul and spirit,—is the subject of a moral administration,—his Maker is the all in all.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is of pre-eminent importance to every one, as it relates to our present welfare and to our future destiny.

Four questions. Who will answer